



**NJ Department of Health
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
Council Meeting Minutes (ratified)
June 4, 2018**

Council Members Present

Michael Aquino, MD, F.A.C.G., Senate President Appointee; Partner, Shore Gastroenterology Associates; Co-founder, Pathology Solutions

Cheryl F. Dreyfus, Ph.D., Academic Institution Representative; Professor and Chair, Department of Neuroscience and Cell Biology, Rutgers University, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, present via teleconference

***Caroline Eggerding, MD**, Healthcare Organization Representative; Division Head, Department of Pediatric Neurology and Development, Cooper Children's Regional Hospital

Susan P. Evans, Ed.D., Commissioner of Health Appointee; Education Program Specialist for Early Intervention Program, NJ Department of Health

Wilma Judith Friedman, Ph.D., Academic Institution Representative; Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Rutgers University

Thomas V. Macchiaverna, MA, Public Member Representative; Special Education Teacher

Michele Sorvino, RDMS, Speaker of the General Assembly Appointee; Executive Director, Golden Door International Film Festival of Jersey City

Samuel Sheng-Hung Wang, Ph.D., Academic Institution Representative; Professor, Department of Molecular Biology and Princeton Neuroscience Institute, Princeton University

Gary Weitzen, BA, Autism Organization Representative; Executive Director of POAC (Parents of Autistic Children)

*Denotes Council Chairperson

Absent

B. Madeleine Goldfarb, MA, Autism Organization Representative; Founder/Director of the Noah's Ark Institute

Ketan Kansagra, MD, FAAP, Academic Institution Representative; Neonatologist, Division of Neonatal Medicine, Children's Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center

NJ Department of Health (DOH) Attendees

Shereef Elnahal, MD, MBA, Commissioner, NJ Department of Health

Magda Schaler-Haynes, JD, MPH, Director, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning

Martin T. Zanna MD, MPH, Acting Executive Director
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Linda N. Bocclair, M.Ed., MBA, Executive Assistant
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism

Mary Ray, Contract Administrator 1
Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism
Commission on Brain Injury Research and Commission on Spinal Cord Research

Daphne Robinson, Ph.D., Consultant
Scientific Planning Consulting

Public Attendees

Suzanne Buchanan, Psy.D., Executive Director, Autism New Jersey

Gerard Costa, Ph.D., Director, Center for Autism and Early Childhood Mental Health at Montclair State University and Principal Investigator, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Anna Dulencin, Ph.D., Biomedical Research Consultant, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Jill Harris, Ph.D., Director of Program Development, Autism Program, Children's Specialized Hospital

Karen Hood-Kasim, MPH, Project Coordinator, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Genevieve Kumapley, PharmD., Founder and Executive Director, My Goal Autism

Eileen McKeating, Ph.D., Research Associate, NJ ACE Coordinating Center

Note: Motions are numbered.

I. Welcome - Council Chairperson, Dr. Caroline Eggerding called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and welcomed everyone.

II. Public Meetings Act Announcement - Dr. Eggerding read the Public Meetings Act.

III. Approval of the January 29, 2018 Meeting Minutes-Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the minutes. MOTION by Dr. Dreyfus to approve the minutes was seconded by Mr. Macchiaverna.

1. MOTION to approve the minutes was passed with seven members in favor. Two members arrived late (did not vote).

Special guests

Dr. Zanna introduced Shereef Elnahal, MD, MBA, Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health and Magda Schaler-Haynes, JD, MPH, Director, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning. Commissioner Elnahal expressed his appreciation for the work of the Council. He acknowledged the SFY19 budget may be troubling for the Council with funding appropriated to the Early Intervention Program to meet the increasing need for intervention and treatment for children with autism. Council members expressed concerns including the difficulty in managing the budget with significant fluctuations in funding. Approaches to ensuring sustainable funding were discussed including encumbering funds dedicated to Council's initiatives and increasing revenue by raising the surcharge to \$2 on motor vehicle violations.

On behalf of the Council Dr. Eggerding thanked Commissioner Elnahal for his interest in the work of the Council and providing a forum for members to discuss their concerns. Ms. Schaler-Haynes continued the discussion with members and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

IV. NJ ACE Grant Applications-Dr. Eggerding provided an overview of the grant review process including the administrative review of grant applications by Council's office staff followed by review and scoring by the Scientific Merit Review Panel and a review and final recommendations by the Council's five-member Scientific Merit Review Committee (SAC). Four applications were received and reviewed by the Scientific Merit Review Panel. One of the grants received a perfect score of 1 and the other three received scores between 6 and 8.25.

Discussion: Members were pleased they had an opportunity to approve a New Jersey Autism Center of Excellence (NJACE) grant application given a previous posting resulted in only one of three NJACE grant applications passing administrative review. The one application reviewed was not recommended for funding by the Scientific Merit Review Panel and the Scientific

Advisory Committee. With fewer restrictions in the reposted Request for Applications (RFA) a dedicated team of accomplished researchers applied, resulting in the highly rated application.

Grant Application #CAUT18ACE014

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Scientific Merit Review Panel and the Scientific Advisory Committee to fund grant application #CAUT18ACE014. MOTION by Dr. Aquino to approve grant application #CAUT18ACE014 was seconded by Mr. Macchiaverna.

2. Motion to approve grant application #CAUT18ACE014 was passed with six members in favor, two recusals and one no vote.

Grant Application #CAUT18ACE019

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Scientific Merit Review Panel and the Scientific Advisory Committee to not fund grant application #CAUT18ACE019. MOTION by Dr. Aquino to not approve grant application #CAUT18ACE019 was seconded by Mr. Macchiaverna.

3. Motion to not approve grant application #CAUT18ACE019 was passed with all nine members in favor.

Grant Application #CAUT18ACE015

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Scientific Merit Review Panel and the Scientific Advisory Committee to not fund grant application #CAUT18ACE015. MOTION by Dr. Friedman to not approve grant application #CAUT18ACE015 was seconded by Dr. Evans.

4. Motion to not approve grant application #CAUT18ACE015 was passed with all nine members in favor.

Grant Application #CAUT18ACE016

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve the recommendations of the Scientific Merit Review Panel and the Scientific Advisory Committee to not fund grant application #CAUT18ACE016. MOTION by Dr. Wang to not approve grant application #CAUT18ACE016 was seconded by Dr. Aquino.

5. Motion to not approve grant application #CAUT18ACE016 was passed with all nine members in favor.

V. Continuation funding

The Council considered requests for continuation funding for six 2017 grants.

Grant # CAUT17BSP010

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve Grant #CAUT17BSP010, *Immune Regulation of Neural Stem/Progenitors*, for year two continuation funding.

MOTION by Dr. Aquino to approve Grant #CAUT17BSP010 for year two continuation funding was seconded by Ms. Sorvino.

Dr. Costa recommended to the NJDOH that the grant be presented to Council for continuation funding. Dr. Zanna concurred.

6. MOTION to approve continuation funding for year two for Grant #CAUT17BSP010 passed with eight members in favor and one recusal.

Grant #CAUT17APL013

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve Grant #CAUT17APL013, *Characterizing the Trajectory of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Adolescents*, for year two continuation funding.

MOTION by Dr. Aquino to approve #CAUT17APL013 for year two continuation funding was seconded by Mr. Weitzen.

Dr. Costa recommended to the NJDOH that the grant be presented to Council for continuation funding. Dr. Zanna concurred.

7. MOTION to approve continuation funding for year two for Grant #CAUT17APL013 passed with eight members in favor and one recusal.

Grant #CAUT17BSP011

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve Grant # #CAUT17BSP011, *Developmental dysregulation of inhibitory neuron migration as an experimental model to analyze mechanisms of Pediatric autism-epilepsy syndromes*, for year two continuation funding.

MOTION by Dr. Wang to approve Grant #CAUT17BSP011 for year two continuation funding was seconded by Dr. Evans.

Dr. Costa recommended to the NJDOH that the grant be presented to Council for continuation funding. Dr. Zanna concurred.

8. MOTION to approve continuation funding for year two for Grant #CAUT17BSP011 was passed with eight members in favor and one recusal.

Grant #CAUT17BSP022

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve Grant #CAUT17BSP022, *The role for Semaphorin functions in cortico-basal ganglia development, repetitive behavior, and autism spectrum disorder*, for year two continuation funding.

MOTION by Mr. Macchiaverna to approve Grant #CAUT17BSP022 for year two continuation funding was seconded by Dr. Evans.

Dr. Costa recommended to the NJDOH that the grant be presented to Council for continuation funding. Dr. Zanna concurred.

9. MOTION to approve continuation funding for year two for Grant #CAUT17BSP022 was passed with all members in favor.

Grant #CAUT17BSP024

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve Grant #CAUT17BSP024, *Characterization of the female phenotype of ASD using Big Data*, for year two continuation funding.

MOTION by Dr. Aquino to approve Grant #CAUT17BSP024 for year two continuation funding was seconded by Mr. Macchiaverna.

Dr. Costa recommended to the NJDOH that the grant be presented to Council for continuation funding. Dr. Zanna concurred.

10. MOTION to approve continuation funding for year two for Grant #CAUT17BSP024 was passed with seven members in favor, one recusal and one no vote.

Grant #CAUT17MED005

Dr. Eggerding called for a motion to approve Grant #CAUT17MED005, *Autism Care Coordination Youth Program (ACCYP)*, for year two continuation funding.

MOTION by Dr. Aquino to approve Grant #CAUT17MED005 for year two continuation funding was seconded by Dr. Friedman.

Dr. Costa recommended to the NJDOH that the grant be presented to Council for continuation funding. Dr. Zanna concurred.

11. MOTION to approve continuation funding for year two for Grant #CAUT17MED005 was passed with all members in favor.

VI. NJACE Report-Dr. Gerald Costa

Dr. Costa reported on the work of the NJACE Coordinating Center's staff in implementing the Transition Plan. The Plan defines the processes and procedures for transfer of the Center at Montclair to Rutgers University, the new NJACE grantee. Meetings will be held with Council staff in July in preparation for the transition meeting with Rutgers in late July. The transition period ends with the closing of Montclair's grant on August 31, 2018.

VII. Report of the Acting Executive Director

NJACE Coordinating Center at Montclair State University

Dr. Zanna thanked Dr. Costa for his report and, more importantly, for his work over the past six years in serving as Principal Investigator for the NJACE Coordinating Center grant and overseeing, along with Karen Hood-Kasim, MPH and Eileen McKeating, Ph.D. as many as 30 or more grants at any given time. They were always available to assist the grantees with questions and concerns and ensuring progress reports were submitted on time, in addition to conducting site visits and planning grantee meetings and conferences. We anticipate a smooth transition as we move into a new phase in the development of the NJACE with Rutgers University as the grantee.

Council Membership

Thanks to those who referred applicants to apply for one of the three vacant Council seats; one for an individual with autism or family member with autism and two autism organization representatives.

Funding

Since the last meeting members were notified that in SFY19 \$4M is to be appropriated from the Council's fund and transferred to the Early Intervention Program. Members were also made aware of the impact of the appropriation on Council's funding in SFY19 and beyond. We await the status of the funding.

VIII. Report of Revenues and Expenditures

Copies of the Report of Revenues and Expenditures were sent to the Council members for their information.

IX. Public Comments – Comments from parents and autism organization leaders included concern over the proposed loss of FY19 funding with the transfer of funds to the Early Intervention Program (EIP); a possible source of additional funds for Council and clarification needed for the Council's position as "in and of the Department of Health".

X. Adjournment - Dr. Eggerding asked for a motion to adjourn.

12. MOTION to adjourn by Dr. Wang and seconded by Dr. Aquino was passed with all members in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Note: Following the meeting members attended a presentation by Sherry L. Wilson, Esq., Ethics Training Officer for the New Jersey State Ethics Commission. The presentation was entitled *Special State Officers Ethics Training 2018*.